

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 of the Secretary, State House, Boston

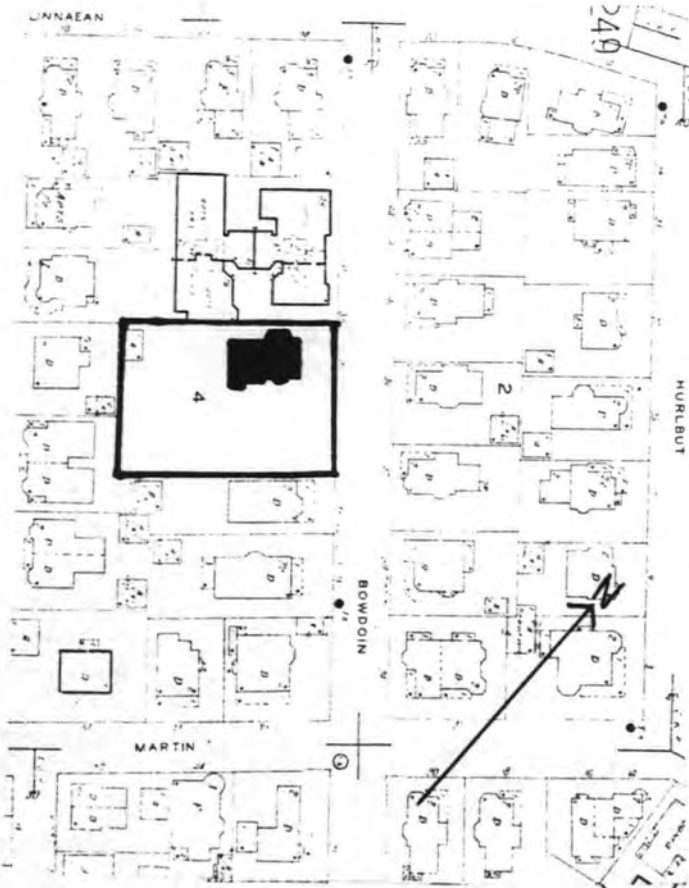
|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| In Area no. | Form no.   |
| Old Camb..  | 8c<br>IIB6 |



Cambridge  
35 Bowdoin Street  
Elizabeth Frost Tenant House  
 ent use residential  
 ent owner Cynthia Heath & Edwin S. Sunderland, Jr.  
 ription:  
1812, 1942-50  
 ource deed records  
 e Federal

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

1104-37A



Architect unknown  
 Exterior wall fabric wood (clapboard)  
 Outbuildings (describe) -----  
 Other features very small structure in an unusually large lot, low hip roof, 6/6 windows  
 Altered Yes- additions Date 1942-50  
 Moved Yes Date 1840s

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre         
 Approximate frontage .103 feet  
 Approximate distance of building from street 30 feet

6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting  
 Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.  
 Date 1964

UTM - BOSTON NORTH  
 19/325300/4694320

ASSESSOR # 165-86

NOV 14 1980

7. Original owner (if known) Elizabeth Frost

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |           |                            |       |                         |       |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal            | _____     | Conservation               | _____ | Recreation              | _____ |
| Agricultural          | _____     | Education                  | _____ | Religion                | _____ |
| Architectural         | <u>XX</u> | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____ | Science/<br>invention   | _____ |
| The Arts              | _____     | Industry                   | _____ | Social/<br>humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce              | _____     | Military                   | _____ | Transportation          | _____ |
| Communication         | _____     | Political                  | _____ |                         |       |
| Community development | _____     |                            |       |                         |       |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This modest house of the post-Revolutionary period is one of the oldest houses in the vicinity. Originally located on Massachusetts Avenue, the house was moved in the 1840s when the district was cut up into lots. Later bay additions on each side of the house enlarged the small interior spaces. The house abuts up to another early house, the David Frost home at 26 Gray Street.

The original owner was Elizabeth Frost whose husband, Gideon Frost, died before the house was completed. She rented out the house for an income producing property.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

*Frost, Elizabeth, Tenant House*

Property: (Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)

State, County: Ma Middlesex

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 11-14.80 2862

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 4-17-82

Action: ACCEPT

☒ RETURN 4/13/82

☐ REJECT

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

photos ☐

maps ☐

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

### Reviewer's comments:

*Nice enough structure but no statement of  
significance beyond age.*

*Return*

Recom./Criteria Return

Reviewer Brannan

Discipline Arch/Historical

Date 4.13.82

☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below  
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

### 1. Name

### 2. Location

### 3. Classification

|          |                    |            |             |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

### 4. Owner of Property

### 5. Location of Legal Description

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

### 7. Description

|                                    |                                       |                                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                           |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Significance—Check and justify below \_\_\_\_\_

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Adams

Signed Braverman Date 4.13.82 Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| In Area no. | Form no.   |
| Old Camb..  | 80<br>IIB6 |

1. Town Cambridge

Address 35 Bowdoin Street

Name Elizabeth Frost Tenant House

Present use residential

Present owner Cynthia Heath & Edwin S. Sunderland, Jr.

3. Description:

Date 1812, 1942-50

Source deed records

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric wood (clapboard)

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features very small structure in an unusually large lot, low hip roof, 6/6 windows

Altered Yes- additions Date 1942-50

Moved Yes Date 1840s

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre       

Approximate frontage 103 feet

Approximate distance of building from street  
30 feet

6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

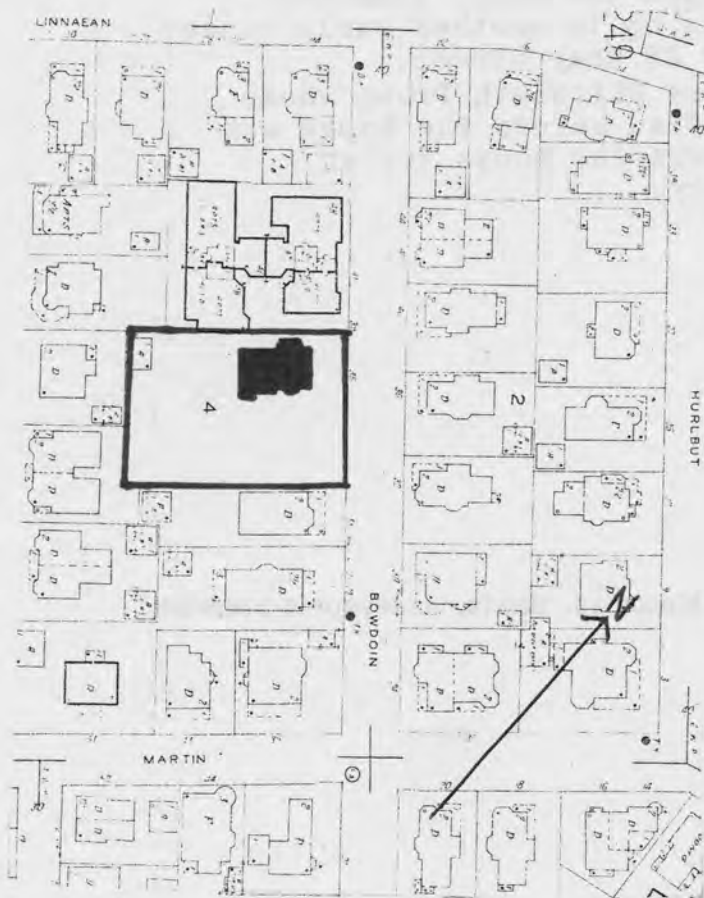
Date 1964

UTM - BOSTON NORTH

19/325300/4694320

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number 1104-37A

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



ASSESSOR # 165-86

NOV 14 1980

7. Original owner (if known) Elizabeth Frost

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |               |                            |               |                         |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Aboriginal            | <u>      </u> | Conservation               | <u>      </u> | Recreation              | <u>      </u> |
| Agricultural          | <u>      </u> | Education                  | <u>      </u> | Religion                | <u>      </u> |
| Architectural         | <u>XX</u>     | Exploration/<br>settlement | <u>      </u> | Science/<br>invention   | <u>      </u> |
| The Arts              | <u>      </u> | Industry                   | <u>      </u> | Social/<br>humanitarian | <u>      </u> |
| Commerce              | <u>      </u> | Military                   | <u>      </u> | Transportation          | <u>      </u> |
| Communication         | <u>      </u> | Political                  | <u>      </u> |                         |               |
| Community development | <u>X</u>      |                            |               |                         |               |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This modest house of the post-Revolutionary period is one of the oldest houses in the vicinity. Originally located on Massachusetts Avenue, the house was moved in the 1840s when the district was cut up into lots. Later bay additions on each side of the house enlarged the small interior spaces. The house abuts up to another early house, the David Frost home at 26 Gray Street.

The original owner was Elizabeth Frost whose husband, Gideon Frost, died before the house was completed. She rented out the house for an income producing property.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

|                                                |                          |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Community:<br>Old Cambridge                    | Form No:<br>OC<br>II.B.6 |
| Property Name: Elizabeth Frost<br>Tenant House |                          |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Built in 1812, the Elizabeth Frost Tenant House is associated with one of Cambridge's prominent early families, one which had already acquired extensive landholdings by 1800. The Frost House was built as rental property by Gideon Frost, who died before the construction was completed. The house was inherited by his wife Elizabeth, who had it moved to its present site on Bowdoin Street in 1846 from its original site at 1700 Massachusetts Avenue.

Gideon Frost was a fourth generation member of the Frost family, which had been established in Cambridge since 1700. Frost acquired his own estate in 1763, and his heirs retained possession of most of the property through the early decades of the nineteenth century. Frost's own house (c. 1753), known as the Frost-Waterhouse House, stands at 7 Waterhouse Street in the Cambridge Common N.R.D.

Bowdoin Street lies in the northernmost of the three master blocks which comprise the Lower Common district. The Lower Common was originally part of the Cambridge Cow Common, and is an area of about 63 acres that was divided in 1724 among the Proprietors into twenty parcels ranging from one to five and three-quarters acres. Many of the original boundaries can be distinguished in the present street layout of the area, particularly Bowdoin Street and the streets parallel to it. Bowdoin Street was laid out in 1842; several years later, in 1846, the Federal style Elizabeth Frost Tenant House was moved to its Bowdoin Street lot. The house, one of ten built between 1800-1833 which survive in Old Cambridge, is important as one of the few built during a relatively stagnant period in the history of this part of the City.

The Elizabeth Frost Tenant House is significant under Criterion A for its associations with the development of the North Avenue community, and under Criterion C as an important example of its type and style.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 13 of 17

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area  
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

121. Worcester, Frederick, House

Determined Eligible

✓ Keeper

*Bruce M. Boyd 6-30-82*

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

122. Porcellian Club

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

*Bruce M. Boyd 6-30-82*

Attest

123. Lowell School

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

*William H. Brachman 4-13-82*

Attest

124. Frost, Elizabeth, Tenanthouse

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

*Bruce M. Boyd 6-30-82*

Attest

125. Wyeth, Augustus, House

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

*Ret 6/10/82*

Attest

*Harvard*

126. Brattle Hall

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

*William H. Brachman 4-13-82*

Attest

127. Frost, Robert, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

*William H. Brachman 4-13-82*

Attest

128. Stedman, Samuel, House

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

*Ret 6/10/82*

Attest

*Harvard*

129. Mount Auburn Hospital -

Surgical Building

Determined Eligible

✓ Keeper

*Bruce M. Boyd 6-30-82*

Substantive Review

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

130. Dodge, Edward, House

✓ Keeper

*William H. Brachman 4-13-82*

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Frost, Elizabeth, Tenanthouse (Cambridge MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MAWorking No. 11.14.80-2862  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84  
Date Due: 7/4/83  
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/30/83  
☐ RETURN  
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒
- resubmission
- 
- ☐
- nomination by person or local government
- 
- ☐
- owner objection
- 
- ☐
- appeal

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

## Reviewer's comments:

THE HOUSE ILLUSTRATES EARLY DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE ARE, BOTH IN ITS EARLY 19<sup>th</sup> APPEARANCE  
AND ITS <sup>LATER</sup> RELOCATION AND REUSE.Recom./Criteria ACCEPT A+C  
Reviewer MARK DIXON  
Discipline A-14  
Date 6-30-83  
see continuation sheetNomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below  
☐ substantive reasons discussed below1. Name2. Location3. Classification

| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unrestored   |                                           |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☒
- summary paragraph
- 
- ☐
- completeness
- 
- ☐
- clarity
- 
- ☐
- alterations/integrity

## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- ☒ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1104-37A

Elizabeth Frost Tenant House  
Cambridge MRA, Ma

0860

35 Bowdoin St.

1104-37A

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275